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TURKEY.

*Report of plague in Beirut, Syria.*BEIRUT, SYRIA, *July 19, 1900.*

SIR. I have the honor to report that on the 17th instant a native physician of Beirut informed the local and sanitary authorities of this place that he had discovered some symptoms of plague disease in 4 workmen engaged at a sesame oil press situated in the center of the city. A medical commission was at once appointed to investigate the matter. The report given by the medical body implied that the 4 cases in question were suspected cases of plague. The facts were then duly communicated to the head sanitary council in Constantinople and the men were removed to one of the suburbs where a cordon was established around their lodgings. Meanwhile, in order to ascertain more positively the real character of the disease, some blood was taken from the veins of the patients with which 4 rabbits were inoculated. Moreover, a portion of the blood taken was sent to the bacteriological department of the Jesuit Medical College for analysis. After twenty-four hours from the time the inoculation was effected 3 of the rabbits died of the plague disease, and the analysis proved that the microbes discovered in the blood were those of plague of a very light character.

Yesterday, acting on the report of the Beirut sanitary authorities, the chief sanitary council of the capital transmitted to the said authorities a circular (of which I beg to inclose herewith a translated copy in the English language) which was communicated to all the foreign consuls residing at Beirut.

As the opinion expressed by the sanitary commission on the subject of the disease under consideration was not unanimous at first, I awaited till to-day to find out the result of the inoculation and the analysis of the blood. Having just succeeded in learning from the official sanitary inspector the foregoing statements, I made it my duty to comply with paragraph 379 of the Consular Regulations, and have cabled the following: "State Department, Washington. Plague.—MAGELSEN."

The Lebanon government, with a view to protect the inhabitants of the mountains, established a strict cordon against Beirut, which step has, I learn, prompted energetic protests on the part of the Beirut authorities and some of the European consuls, who claim that the intercourse which took place within the three last days between the Beirut people and the Lebanon population by the exodus of hundreds of families from here to the mountains renders such a measure totally useless.

In this connection it would not be amiss to report that Beirut has not suffered from plague disease since 1839. Owing to the mild character of this epidemic, it is hoped that no more cases will take place, and that the quarantine as well as the cordon will soon be removed. It is gratifying to state, in conclusion, that the patients are gradually improving.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM C. MAGELSEN,
United States Vice-Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure.]

Sanitary administration of the Turkish Empire—Beirut office.

BEIRUT, July 5-18, 1900.

By a decision of the chief sanitary council, a quarantine of ten days is imposed, from July 5-18, instant, on the arrivals of the Beirut littoral, comprised between Jouneh, inclusive, and Sidon, exclusive, to be served at the lazaretto of Clazomene.

The vessels, steamers, or sailing boats that have left the said littoral prior to the above-mentioned date, viz, July 5-18, instant, shall be submitted to a rigorous medical visit at the first port where there is a sanitary physician.

The coasting vessels coming from a clean port with a cargo of goods to the destination of Beirut, may unload their goods for quarantine at the lazaretto of the said city, then leave this lazaretto with a clean bill of health, provided they have effected no shipping operations.

Vessels, steamers, or sailing boats coming from a contaminated place and having Ottoman ports for destination may proceed to the Beirut lazaretto to disembark therein the passengers and goods destined for Beirut, after which they should go directly to the lazaretto of Clazomene in order to undergo their rigorously required quarantine.

COZZONIS VOUROS,
Sanitary Inspector.

Foreign statistical reports of countries and cities—yearly and monthly.

ARGENTINA—*Buenos Ayres*.—Month of May, 1900. Estimated population, 800,000. Total number of deaths, 1,322, including diphtheria, 13; enteric fever, 8; measles, 2; scarlet fever, 18; smallpox, 2; plague, 5, and 121 from tuberculosis.

AUSTRALIA—*New South Wales—Sydney*.—Month of June, 1900. Estimated population, 438,300. Total number of deaths, 378, including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 3; scarlet fever, 1; whooping cough, 1; bubonic plague, 16, and 45 from tuberculosis.

QUEENSLAND—*Brisbane*.—Month of May, 1900. Estimated population, 110,951. Total number of deaths, 108, including diphtheria, 2; enteric fever, 5; scarlet fever, 1; dengue fever, 2; plague, 3, and 13 from tuberculosis.

BRAZIL—*Pernambuco*.—Month of June, 1900. Estimated population, 200,000. Total number of deaths, 438, including measles, 13; whooping cough, 5, and 79 from tuberculosis.

BRITISH COLUMBIA—*Vancouver*.—Month of July, 1900. Estimated population, 30,000. Total number of deaths, 22, including 3 from enteric fever.

CUBA—*Havana*.—Month of July, 1900. Estimated population, 242,055. Total number of deaths, 518, including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 13; smallpox, 1; yellow fever, 30; leprosy, 1, and 61 from tuberculosis.

GERMANY—*Dresden*.—Month of June, 1900. Estimated population, 407,500. Total number of deaths, 578, including diphtheria, 2; enteric fever, 2; measles, 7; scarlet fever, 3; whooping cough, 4, and 76 from phthisis pulmonalis.

MAGDEBURG.—Month of May, 1900. Estimated population, 230,972. Total number of deaths, 350, including diphtheria, 10; scarlet fever, 8; whooping cough, 1, and 44 from tuberculosis.